1	2	3	4
Kerala	150	149	110
Tamil Nadu	131	167	134
Gujarat	46	202	172
Haryana	136	176	162
Maharashtra	166	169	149
Punjab	280	177	178
West Bengal	303	218	194
Others	–	276	235

* Includes Others

Care of girl child before birth

1436. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by his Ministry to save the girl child before birth;

(b) the main reasons for female foeticides; and

(c) the steps being taken in various fields?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) In order to check female foeticide, the technique of pre-conception sex selection has been brought within the ambit of this Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act (PC&PNDT Act) so as to pre-empt the use of such technologies, which significantly contribute to the declining sex ratio. Use of ultrasound machines has also been brought within the purview of this Act more explicitly so as to curb their misuse for detection and disclosure of sex of the foetus lest it should lead to female foeticide. Appropriate Authorities at the State and District levels are empowered with the powers of Civil Court for search, seizure and sealing the machines, equipments and records of the violators of law including sealing of premises and commissioning of witnesses. It has been made mandatory to maintain proper records in respect of the use of ultrasound machines and other equipments capable of detection of sex of foetus and also in respect of tests and procedures that may lead to pre-conception selection of sex. The sale of ultrasound machines has been regulated through laying down the condition of sale only to the bodies registered under the Act. Stringent punishments are prescribed under the Act so as to serve as a deterrent for minimizing violations of the Act.

(b) Some of the reasons commonly put forward to explain the consistently low levels of sex ratio are son preference, neglect of the girl child resulting in higher mortality at younger age, female infanticide, female foeticide, higher maternal mortality and male bias in enumeration of population. Easy availability of the sex

determination tests and abortion services may also be proving to be catalyst in the process, which may be further stimulated by pre-conception sex selection facilities.

(c) The steps taken to prevent the, practice of female foeticide include strengthening the implementation of the PC&PNDT Act in the country by constituting National Support and Monitoring Cell (NSMC); National Inspection and Monitoring Committee (NIMC) consisting of representatives from Ministry of Women and Child Development, National Commission for Women, Ministry of Law and NGOs; sensitization through Members of Parliament; funding to the State under Reproductive and Child Health - II; inclusion of the issue under NRHM; sensitizing the judiciary and training of judicial personnel; and awareness generation activities. It is also proposed to amend the provisions of the Act to make its implementation more effectve.

AIDS control programme with private participation

1437. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National AIDS Control Organization has decided to encourage public-private partnership under the third phase of the National AIDS Control Programme to be launched in April, 2007;

(b) whether a National Steering Committee comprising the CII, the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India, NAS and Service Companies FICCI, the ILO and U.S. AIDS will be set up to identify mechanisms for strengthening linkages between the private and Government sectors; and

(c) if so, to what extent private sectors' inclusion to battle against AIDS has helped in controlling the AIDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Existing engagements with private sector and industry have resulted in many business houses across India signing workplace policies that address awareness, prevention and removing stigma and discrimination. Public Private Partnerships have been signed between NACO and Ballapur Industries and ACC separately for provision of ART to those affected by HIV in Chandrapur district in Maharashtra and Wada district in Karnataka.

Unused funds by the States

1438. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Budget has made an unprecedented hike of 21 per cent in health allocation but States lagging behind in social indices have spent only a fraction of Centre's allocation last year;